

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite that the cooling step is conducted for up to 30 seconds as set forth previously in claim 40. Support is found at page 5, lines 6-8.

Claim 25 has been amended and new claim 45 has been added to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 25. Claims 31 and 32 have been amended to include preferred pressure ranges; support is found at page 6, line 24.

Claims 23-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Soane in view of McReynolds. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that according to Soane (col. 3, lines 6-8) that the temperature is slowly reduced to maintain a stress-free interface that provides a stable assembled microchannel structure. McReynolds is not believed to overcome this deficiency. In order for the Examiner to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some hint or suggestion in the prior art for a particular limitation. The Examiner has not cited any objective evidence establishing that a rapid cooling step is "within the purview of the skilled artisan" as alleged. In fact, the objective evidence available in the cited references, especially the teaching of Soane cited above, teaches *away* from cooling for a time period of up to 30 seconds.

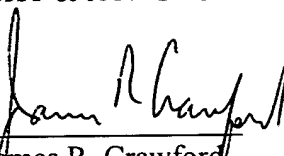
In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

HUBR-1165 (10023593)

Any fees due may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted

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